Renee wants her seven-year old daughter Traci to have all the advantages that she didn’t have in her own childhood. She has Traci taking dance lessons, learning how to program the computer, playing on the local soccer team, and singing in the choir.

“I don’t know what to do,” Alan said to his father Alan was the father of a two-year-old, and he often spoke to his father looking for advice about raising his child. “We’ve been hoping that we could teach Sean to read early so he would have a head start when he’s ready for school. We’ve tried to teach him the letters of the alphabet using blocks, but he only throws the blocks around or stacks them into towers.”

Audra patiently picked the ball up and brought it back to little Emily, even though she had done it many times before. Sure enough, as soon as Emily had the ball, she threw it again. Audra retrieved it one more time and handed it over. The game continued for another ten minutes until Emily finally tired of it. Audra sat down with a sigh.

Six-year-old Teddy was in tears. “I hate it. I hate playing soccer. I never liked it. I never will like it.” He stomped his feet. “But you always seemed happy when we went to games,” his mother said. “I wasn’t happy. But you wanted me to play. So I did. Please don’t make me play again this year.” “Ok” his mother said”it’s for you to choose. If you don’t want to play, you don’t have to.”

For-year-old Tara was sitting on the floor trying to work out a jigsaw puzzle. Her father was watching. She seemed to be stumped. After several moments, her father reached over and put a piece in, saying” see, honey, it goes here with the others like it. “Then he finished up the puzzle and said” Here’s what it looks like when it’s finished.”

As Consuelo did her shopping, she kept up a running commentary. One-year-old Pepe, sitting in the shopping cart, heard everything his mother said. When she told him to feel how round the oranges were, he reached out. When she said that the milk container was cold, he touched that too.

The environment that parents provide for their children greatly affects how the children’s brain develops. Read each situation below. Then in the lines following, say whether the parents’ actions were wise or not and explain.